

Message Text

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NODIS

EYES ONLY SECRETARY VANCE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, RH, NI, US

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: NIGERIA'S GARBA DISCUSSES POSSIBLE
MOVEMENT TOWARD A SETTLEMENT

1. WHEN JOSEPH GARBA, NIGERIA'S COMMISSIONER FOR
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, DROPPED BY TO SEE ME LATE JUNE 22,
HE TOLD ME THAT HE HAD MET WITH NKOMO AND TINY
ROWLAND OF LONRHO IN LONDON. ROWLAND SAID THAT VAN DER
BYL HAD TOLD HIM THAT SMITH IS READY TO STEP DOWN BUT
WANTS ASSURANCE THAT NKOMO WOULD BE ABLE TO FORM A
GOVERNMENT IN WHICH THERE WOULD BE A PLACE FOR ALL OF
THE OTHER FACTIONAL LEADERS. ROWLAND AND VAN DER BYL
AGREED THAT BOTH NIGERIA AND THE U.S. OF COURSE WOULD
HAVE TO BACK SUCH A PLAN FOR IT TO SUCCEED. NKOMO
TOLD GARBA THAT HE WANTED TO PLAY THIS SUGGESTION OUT
A BIT FURTHER BEFORE TALKING WITH MUGABE.

2. IT SEEMED TO ME THAT GARBA WAS IMPLYING THAT NIGERIA
IS AWARE OF THE PROBLEMS OF THE PATRIOTIC
FRONT. HE THINKS THIS MAY OFFER AN OPENING FOR REAL
POSITIVE MOVEMENT TOWARD A SETTLEMENT. HE APPEARED
TO WANT TO KNOW THE U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARD SUCH A SCHEME,
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IF IT COULD BE PUT IN MOTION. I TOLD GARBA THAT THE
U.S. CERTAINLY WOULD NOT OPPOSE A SETTLEMENT PLAN
JUST BECAUSE IT WAS DIFFERENT FROM THE ANGLO-AMERICAN
PLAN. IF A PROPOSAL INCLUDED ALL PARTIES AND SUCCEEDED
IN AVOIDING CIVIL WAR, I THOUGHT THE U.S. WOULD NOT
DISCOURAGE THE EFFORT. IN FACT, IF IT WERE SUCCESSFUL,
WE WOULD WELCOME IT.

3. GARBA SAID HE TOLD ROWLAND TO GO BACK AND TALK FURTHER WITH VAN DER BYL. GARBA PLANS TO RETURN TO LONDON THIS SUNDAY (JUNE 25), ENROUTE BACK TO LAGOS. HE APPARENTLY HOPES TO SEE NKOMO AGAIN, AND POSSIBLY ROWLAND AND OTHERS AS WELL, POSSIBLY IN PARIS. YOUNG

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